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USDA To Conduct Health Surveys On Local Dairies

Reprinted from USDA Press Release:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7, 2001 – Representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will visit area dairies in January to conduct the initial survey for Dairy 2002, a national study of health and health management practices at U.S. dairies.

Conducted by the USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), Dairy 2002 is a continuation of studies that address priority issues of the U.S. dairy industry. Preliminary data will be published by NAHMS in August 2002.

Data collectors from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin the study by contacting about 4,000 dairy producers in 21 states. These states represent 83 percent of U.S. dairy herds and 85 percent of U.S. dairy cows. The data collected is summarized and used in regional and national estimates.

Objectives of the study serve to:

- ◆ Describe management strategies that prevent or reduce the prevalence of Johne's Disease, and identify how these strategies have changed since 1996.
- ◆ Evaluate management factors associated with key food safety pathogens in U.S. dairy cattle.
- ◆ Describe the level of understanding and preparedness of U.S. dairy producers to respond to threats of foreign animal diseases.
- ◆ Describe biosecurity practices and trends on U.S. dairy operations.
- ◆ Describe baseline dairy cattle health and management practices used on U.S. dairies and the changes in these practices since 1996.
- ◆ Describe animal waste handling systems used on U.S. dairies.

See **DAIRIES** on Page 5

October Milk Production

Milk production in California for October 2001 totaled 2.8 billion pounds, up 4.5 percent from October 2000. USDA's estimate for U.S. milk production October 2001 in the 20 major dairy states is 11.8 billion pounds, down 0.2 percent from October 2000. Production per cow in the 20 major states averaged 1,526 pounds for October, which is 15 pounds above October 2000.



Minimum Class Prices

Statewide average hundredweight prices

Class	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Dec. 2001
1	\$17.87	\$16.28	\$13.74
2	\$15.89	\$15.89	\$12.93
3	\$15.72	\$15.72	\$12.76
4a	\$12.52	\$11.73	—
4b	\$12.30	\$10.60	—

Federal Order and California Minimum Class 1 Prices

Average Hundredweight Prices

Regions	Nov. 2001	Dec. 2001
Phoenix, Arizona	\$18.11	\$14.33
Southern California	\$16.42	\$13.88
Portland, Oregon	\$17.66	\$13.88
Northern California	\$16.14	\$13.61

California Alfalfa: November

Northern California: November found Premium and Supreme alfalfa demand good, however supplies are very limited and most movement was on previously contracted hay. Most high test hay coming in from out of state. Fair and Good alfalfa was steady to weak in light test, with demand light to moderate. Retail and Stable hay was steady with good demand, continuing to see hay move out of barns with most movement on previously sold hay. Rains moved throughout the State helping to bring closure to the hay season and was a welcome sight in areas experiencing a dry weather pattern.

Southern California: This month showed Premium and Supreme alfalfa not tested as producers in the high desert area are just beginning to put up the higher testing hay. The lower desert areas have not experienced the cool weather needed to produce the high test hay. The end of the month found the high desert areas finishing up retail hay and the last cutting being put up for dairies. Good alfalfa and low-end hay showed steady demand. Good interest from the retail and stable hay segment, with most movement coming out of barns.



Shown below are alfalfa hay sales, deliveries and Supreme quality prices per ton, delivered to dairies, as reported by the USDA Market News Service, Moses Lake, WA.

Alfalfa Hay Sales and Delivery September/October, 2001

	October 2001	November 2001
Tons Sold ¹	147,770	87,948
Tons Delivered ²	67,896	46,537

¹ For current or future delivery.

California Supreme Hay Prices

Statewide average hundredweight prices

Area	November 2001 Prices			
	11/2	11/9	11/16	11/23
Petaluma	\$170-190	\$192	\$185	—
North Valley ¹	\$180-190	\$170-195	\$175-192	\$177-188
South Valley ²	\$164-192	\$193	\$165-180	\$165-195
Chino Valley	—	—	—	—

¹ North Valley is Escalon, Modesto and Turlock areas.

² South Valley is Tulare, Visalia and Hanford areas.

For current pricing information and reports on the FOB market, you may subscribe to the California Alfalfa Hay Weekly Summary by calling (509) 765-3611. Weekly reports are available on the Internet at:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm>



California Department of Food & Agriculture

William (Bill) Lyons Jr., Secretary
Robert "Tad" Bell, Undersecretary
Daniel E. Webb, Deputy Secretary
Valerie Brown, Deputy Secretary
Vanessa Arellano, Assistant Secretary

The California Department of Food and Agriculture, Dairy Marketing Branch publishes the California Dairy Review monthly. To subscribe, call (916) 654-1456. Please direct any comments or suggestions for future newsletters to Karen Dapper at (916) 654-1456 or send an e-mail to dairy@cdfa.ca.gov

Beef Council Appointments

CDFA recently conducted nomination procedures to fill various positions on the California Beef Council. Based on the nominations received, CDFA has appointed the following individuals to represent the dairy industry on the Beef Council.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Status</u>
• Brad Scott (former alternate)	Moreno Valley	Member
• Mike Wickstrom (reappointed)	Hilmar	Member
• Richard Westra (new appointment)	Chino	Member
• J.B. Aguerre (former member)	Chino	Alternate
• Frank Gambonini (reappointed)	Petaluma	Alternate

CDFA appreciates all those who participated in the nomination procedures. If you have questions about the California Beef Council, please call Dennis Manderfield of the CDFA Marketing Branch at (916) 654-1245 or call Bruce Berven, Executive Director of the Beef Council, at (925) 484-2333.

Milk Stabilization Administrative Fee Suspended

The California Food and Agricultural Code authorizes the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to establish a maximum total assessment of two and four-tenths cents (\$0.024) per hundredweight of market milk sold in commercial trade channels to fund the operations of the Dairy Marketing Branch. The current rate of assessment is one and five-tenths cents (\$0.015) per hundredweight, two-thirds of which is assessed to producers of market milk and one-third to handlers of market milk.

The Branch has determined that there are sufficient funds available to administer the program without collecting further assessments for a period of time. Therefore, effective for milk produced on or after November 1, 2001, the Secretary is suspending the Milk Stabilization Administrative Fee until such time as the Program's cash balance is drawn down to a two or three month reserve. Producers should monitor their statements to verify that this assessment fee is no longer appearing. It is anticipated that the Fee will be suspended through April 30, 2002.

CDFA to Update Milk Inspection Program

California's unique nutritional standards for milk – the highest in the nation – will benefit from improved enforcement through an updated program being developed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The proposal includes a higher degree of retail testing and a detailed protocol for sampling and notification, with potential prosecution by the Attorney General's Office for unfair business practices as the ultimate penalty.

The updated enforcement program is currently being reviewed by CDFA staff and will be rolled out to the dairy industry and the general public for comment, with the first presentation scheduled for December 6 at the regularly scheduled Milk Inspection Advisory Committee meeting.

Milk Pricing in the United States

Over the past 125 years, a complex pricing system has evolved to deal with milk production, collection, and distribution with a goal of ensuring that the public gets the milk it needs and wants, and the dairy farmer gets the economic returns needed to provide the milk. The USDA has released a report "Milk Pricing in the United States" that reviews how the milk pricing structure is set up and how it works. The report can be downloaded at www.ers.usda.gov or can be ordered at 800-999-6779.

Producer News . . .

The following are tidbits of information from producers around the state:

- In response to the recent energy issues and for future energy savings, many dairies have installed diesel pumps for farm irrigation usage.
- Many dairy farmers in the state are undertaking major repairs, clearing debt, and paying early 2002 bills, preparing for lower income due to falling milk prices.
- Dairy farmers in the southern part of the State are reporting that cows are eating greater quantities of feed because of the colder weather, and fresh cow numbers are up right now.
- Bull calves are running in the \$60 range, replacement heifer prices are remaining steady in the \$2000 range.
- Many dairy farms are already receiving commodities under new contract prices, many are reporting opting for soybeans over canola.
- Lots of activity going on in preparing bedding, such as rice hulls, almond shells, straw, etc., as the weather has gotten colder and wetter throughout the State.

Dairy producers are encouraged to send the Department information appropriate to this section that they would like to share with other producers via this newsletter by contacting Karen Dapper by phone at (916) 654-1456 or by fax at (916) 654-0867.



A "sign" of the times..... recently seen on a California dairy

DAIRIES - Continued from page 1

- ◆ Describe U.S. dairy producers' attitudes towards, and uses of, animal identification.

In 1991, NAHMS conducted the Dairy Heifer Evaluation Project (DHEP), leading to baseline information on heifer health, illnesses and management practices, and prevalence estimates for *Cryptosporidium*, *Escherichia coli* 0157:H7 and *Salmonella*. The NAHMS' Dairy '96 study built on the DHEP. Objectives of the Dairy '96 study included acquiring national prevalence estimates of *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* (Johne's disease), bovine leukosis virus, and fecal shedding of *E.coli* 0157 and *Salmonella* in adult dairy cows.

Baseline dairy cattle health and management practices were also studied to examine changes since the DHEP. Levels of participation in quality assurance programs, the incidence of digital dermatitis, and a profile of animal waste handling systems used on U.S. dairy operations were also examined.

The Dairy 2002 study will continue to address these important issues. Selected producers may choose to receive an additional contact by a Veterinary Medical Officer from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: Veterinary Services (APHIS:VS), who will explain the second phase of the study.

Participation in the Dairy 2002 study is strictly voluntary. NAHMS data and operations where the data were collected are always confidential and not included in national databases.

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.usda.gov/nass/.

For more information on Dairy 2002 contact:
Dr. Brian McCluskey (970) 490-7803
Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health
USDA:APHIS:VS, attn. NAHMS
555 South Howes, Fort Collins, CO 80521
NAHMSweb@aphis.usda.gov
www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm ☀

Happy Holidays
from the California

Department of Food and Agriculture
Dairy Program Staff!!

CDFA Dairy Marketing Branch: Getting to Know Us . . .

In response to reader request, the Dairy Review will highlight a Branch employee each month - hopefully this will help you connect faces with voices, and help you get to know us better!



Cindy "Davis" Prentice Cost of Production Unit

Cindy was raised on the beef operation of Triangle T Ranch in Chowchilla. She was an active member of both 4-H and FFA with a beef project of Polled

Herefords and steers. Cindy graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Agriculture Business Management.

Cindy began her state service in 1989 working for Market News. Most of her time at Market News was as a livestock, hay and grain reporter in the Visalia office. In 1994, due to budget cuts at Market News, she moved to Sacramento and began working for the Dairy Marketing Branch. In her first two years at Dairy Marketing, Cindy worked on administrative issues such as the budget. Then she transferred to the Statistics Unit and worked on the Dairy Information Bulletin, the California Dairy Review and the Statistics Annual. In 1998, Cindy transferred to her current position in the Cost of Production Unit.

While working for the Cost of Production Unit, Cindy's efforts have primarily been focused on acting as a backup to the rest of the staff in collecting costs; working with administrative issues such as the Cost of Production Annual; and moving from a spreadsheet format to a database format for processing cost data information.

Cindy reports that her favorite part of her current position has been meeting and getting to know dairy producers throughout the state and is looking forward to working with the producers in the Sacramento Valley and Del Norte/Humboldt region beginning in 2002. ☀

Hundredweight Pool Prices

Month	Quota	Overbase
May '00	\$12.24	\$10.54
June	\$12.78	\$11.08
July	\$13.00	\$11.30
August	\$13.02	\$11.32
September	\$13.31	\$11.61
October	\$12.29	\$10.59
November	\$12.69	\$10.99
December	\$12.98	\$11.28
January '01	\$12.73	\$11.03
February	\$13.04	\$11.34
March	\$13.88	\$12.18
April	\$14.65	\$12.95
May	\$15.70	\$14.00
June	\$16.46	\$14.76
July	\$16.35	\$14.65
August	\$16.70	\$15.00
September	\$16.95	\$15.25
October	\$14.71	\$13.01

2001 Mailbox Prices in Dollars per Hundredweight

	January	February	March	April	May	June
California ¹	\$12.01	\$12.23	\$12.95	\$13.71	\$14.54	\$15.23
USDA ²	\$12.97	\$12.91	\$13.79	\$14.29	\$15.29	\$15.95

¹ California mailbox price calculated by CDFA.

² All federal milk market order weighted average, as calculated by USDA.

Mailbox Prices for June 2001

